

Memo from
JOSHUA LEDERBERG

To: Dr Mary Bunting

Dear Polly,

11/2/77

It would certainly be a pleasure to see you again, or if that doesn't work out, at least to have a chat by phone. But if you're free one evening, please let us know, so we can plan to have dinner together, and you might meet my family if the haul to Palo Alto isn't too tiresome. The best phone # to use is (415) 321-2764; or 497-5801 if no answer.

You were very kind to say what you did in your letter. The image that you were reflecting, as of 1946, is no stranger to me; and there were good reasons at the very instant to be making a realistic assessment of how I come across to other people today, as I may be entering a new role that would strain that facility to the utmost.

And thank you too for reminding me of Ben F. Do you recall exactly what provoked him to replan his personality?

Your comments about Ed were useful and reassuring, with respect to the tack I was taking. We could discuss them further if we can get together

What you had to say about your painful obligations to your mother, I was sorry to hear; and as will happen to almost anyone beyond a certain age, it evokes similar recollections. My wife remarked once how short is the interval between being responsible to one's children and to one's parents. (As usual, my own life was backwards: my father died almost 10 years ago, after a 14-year siege of invalidism; my mother last year, and blessedly more swiftly.) You must come from long-lived stock!

Enough of that -- I hope we really can get together in good cheer.

Yours,

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